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NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

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THE TRIBUNE.

Wayside Notes Abroad....No. 5.

Foreign Correspondence of The Tribune.

LONDON, July 23d, 1845.

Nothing can well exceed the beauty and perfection of the fruits and products in general of the earth here, and of the lower animals that subsist thereon.

The flowers are rich, full and delicious. In the Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park, on trees two inches in diameter and five or six feet in hight, grow roses exquisitely beautiful and fragrant, of many colors and in great profusion. The strawberries, raspberries and cherries are of an almost incredible size, and of superior flavor. The kitchen vegetables are large, juicy and wholesome. The bread-stuffs and meats nutritious and savory. All sorts of horses are here very handsome (as also are the equipages) and the management of them admirable. This beauty of the lower creations naturally leads one to think of that of the men, or still more of the women, and I must say, if those of the Metropolis are a fair specimen of English women in general, and a month's residence and close observation among them enough to form an opinion, the talked-of beauty of the women of England is entirely fabulous, and excepting only the large blue eye that gives no thievish, suspicious looks from the corner of the lids but a full and open glance of welcome only excepted, the face has neither beauty of feature nor expression; the body is heavy and without symmetry, the foot clumsy, the gait graceless, and the dress unbecoming. As I love to see an angelic face, I have watched for one, two hours in succession, the magnificent equipages wherein the ladies of the noble and wealthy class parade through Hyde Park, and with scarcely an exception, the lap-dog, the horses, the equipage were the pictures, the lady in it—a blur!

The moral and social aspect of society here is by no means encouraging, and the most conspicuous feature is gross sensuality. Man, woman and child,—beggar, laborer, mechanic, tradesman, all are beset by the beastly habit of drinking gin, porter, beer, or ale. Out of these large masses one out of every four has what is called *enough,* i. e. but little more would take him from his legs and senses, and the rest are very likely to be in the various degrees of inebriation between him and soberness. Among eight decently-dressed women I met on a Sunday forenoon in an Omnibus four visibly were under the influence of the habit of intoxication, and one the completest embodiment of all kinds of sensuality imagination can picture. Men and women servants require commonly a weekly stipend for beer, and generally spend the whole of it in drink on Saturday evening the moment they get it. In two thirds of the city the constant carrying of tin ale-mugs of all sizes, empty or full, is a sorrowful sight. From an estimate roughly made, but not far from the mark, there can be no doubt that the quantity of beer and ale consumed in this city exceeds the quantity of Croton water used in New York. In proportion to the wretchedness of a street or neighborhood, the gin palace rises in size and show, where a miserable violin helps to fiddle the trashy drinks down and to kill the time and morals of the lower classes of both sexes.

At evening the streets are filled with unfortunate, hideous-looking women of the town, and on Sunday afternoon one who ventures out into the crowd is grieved and disgusted by the scenes of drunkenness and obscenity that meet the eye.

Of course, the higher classes consider ale vulgar and French brandies and wines taken more moderately are the *respectable* beverage, but the omnipresent stomach is always the first and special concern of the father of an English family, and there is a story that the Duke of Wellington paid, when strawberries were out of season, ten shillings sterling for *each* strawberry contained in two dishes that graced his table, and that one of his guests, a certain lord, found them so "very fine" that he finished one dish by himself and sent the other round to his wife that she might follow his example.—Such is the way, rather than in the formation of libraries and galleries that an immense income may be spent. Even at Court there is no expression of real elevation; the King of Prussia, having on his visit here, been introduced to all the lords and nobles with long and pompous titles, inquired for the literary men of the Court, but these, alas! could not be found.* Such at least is the story currently told here, and it has the air of probability, for, in Prussia, the literary men are always around or at the Court, but here the Queen, instead of extending her patronage to literature and art, is more likely to give it to Tom Thumb, the Mysterious Lady and such like shows. Nor is Prince Albert more princely; he called upon Eastlake to paint him a picture, saying he wished to present it to the Queen on her birthday and intimating what kind of picture he wanted by describing one which Eastlake had painted, enquired the price. The artist replied, "I received three hundred guineas for that one." "Three hundred guineas! I cannot afford to pay so much, and must be mistaken in the picture I allude to, which I am told cost only thirty." Eastlake painted the picture for thirty guineas!

Although there is here a regular system of pilfering by almost all, both subordinates and employers, (from which I have myself been somewhat a sufferer), with a sub-marine telescope one still discovers in John Bull beneath the seas of ale a certain sincerity of purpose, a certain conservatism, that approaches to honesty; and for that let him have praise, but for the immense and disproportionate wealth his institutions place in the hands of the few at the expense of the lives of the working classes, the lamentable ignorance and vice of the masses, the gross sensuality of all, and the falseness of his social system generally, the day of account must surely come.

As to the *liberty* of England, however favorably it may compare with Russian despotism or continental notions of liberty, to one who has breathed the air of a Republic, and, under its exhilarating influence, risen to the consciousness of the dignity of manhood, and to a capacity for and appreciation of self-government, it is the merest mockery.

Of religious liberty even members of Parliament here have no conception. But a week since on the second reading of a bill that proposed to remove some of the civil disabilities of the Jews, a Mr. Plumber gravely opposed the bill in these words: "I am sure the passage of it will incur the displeasure of the Almighty and draw upon us the vengeance of the Most High," in which opinion the Hon. Sir Somebody "heartily concurred, &c." Of civil liberty there is only what past centuries achieved, and far too little for the spirit of the present.

The payment of twelve pounds annual rent is the test of political emancipation and worth. If an increase of family, misfortune or accident make a reduction of expense and rent necessary or prudent, the right to vote, the only political sovereignty a man has, is forfeited. Besides, the practical operation of this arrangement is to exclude the great masses of the workers and producers of society, who need it most, from the benefits of representation, while a great proportion of the mechanics and tradesmen, who do pay the rent, depend, from the laws of trade, and the influences of wealth, so much upon their Landlord, that he almost invariably commands their vote, and, if he wants any more, buys them by letting a number of miserable apartments in a house to poor people really at a low rent, but calls it in the lease twelve pounds. Wealth, concentrating within itself all political power, from its desire of title and rank, generally leagues with the Crown and Ministers, and in Parliament cannot well be expected to exercise the only effectual check vested in the House of Commons, that of stopping the supplies.—Revolution would be ruin to its possessions, ruin to its ambition, and what the courageous Baron of the so-called dark ages achieved for his day, the cowardly commoner now has scarce virtue to preserve.

The majority of the lower classes, too ignorant and sensual to read, think their wretchedness natural, or, as their Priests call it, a Divine dispensation, and occasionally at least feel happy enough in the glorious pale ale of good old England; the few of them above this ignorance know they have no vote nor remedy, and led by the public journal within their reach, are apt to confound it with the intricate subject of the fluctuations of trade and manufacture, and thus bear it as best they can. Or if starvation now and then pinches too hard, and the lion's growl is heard too loudly—as recently in the case of Portsmouth—the Government sends a few regiments of troops, an expedient that generally answers—it throws a few more pence in the channels of trade, and thus allays the wrath of the animal, or if not, gives the Government the advantage of having its forces on the spot.

The educated and informed Englishman of the better classes, will converse rationally on most matters, but from long habits of thought, has a complete monomania on the subject of popular government, and like the lower classes is beset and ridden by the principle of monarchism. Upon the whole, the people here have about as much liberty as they are capable of enjoying at present. But it is to be hoped a brighter era will soon dawn upon the land, and bring with it more capacity and more freedom, and among the hopeful signs of the day to that effect, it is pleasure to add, that there are here a few small circles where the rights of humanity are better understood, and whose hearts beat in unison with that of the race; and that in one of these, the achievements of the age being spoken of, a lady remarked the *greatest* was the condition of the factory girls at Lowell as mentioned by Dickens.—Equally encouraging are the movements of the Corn League, and every true-hearted man must wish them success and sympathize with the cause as one of progress and justice.

I close this epistle by giving the substance of a few of the many novel advertisements that appear in the papers.

A reward of *two pounds* is offered for the recovery of a lost Lap-dog, and near it, in the same column, a reward of five shillings for a lost Child...."Wanted a Protestant Clergyman, full of the Holy Ghost," &c..... A Company advertises its purchase and exclusive right of the "Isthmus of Darien," and invites the public to subscribe to stock for the construction of a Canal to the Pacific. J. N.

* We hope be heard what was the sum allotted by the Queen for pensions to literary men!! [*Ed.*

The Weather and Crops in Alabama, &c.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

RUSSELL Co. Ala. Sept. 6th, 1845.

There is but one topic of conversation here, the drouth, the drouth! But very little rain has fallen here, for the year past; the Winter was dry and pleasant with but a few days of cold weather.—The Spring opened, about the first of March, with a continuance of warm and dry weather. About the 20th of May we had a general rain, the only one since November last—this gave corn and cotton a good start. The first of June the drouth properly commenced in this region, but in some parts of Georgia and South Carolina it was felt much earlier: in some counties of Georgia the farmers have not planted at all; the ground was prepared and the seed ready, and in some instances carried into the field; they patiently waited for rain, which never came. Others planted but the seed never sprouted; some fields under favorable circumstances are producing a sickly growth of corn and cotton. The counties of Upson, Monroe, Pike and Henry, it is said will not produce corn enough to supply the wants of one county, and the people are forming associations to supply themselves with bread. There was a large surplus of corn and wheat in the Cherokee country, which will be an essential relief to the lower country. In the upper districts of South Carolina the case is still more deplorable; crops are entirely cut off and the poor are talking seriously about starvation.—Thousands will emigrate from South Carolina the coming Winter to the upper part of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. With us the light rains we have had have been most partial: a section of perhaps a mile or two in extent has been blessed with copious showers, while an adjoining one has been parched and burnt. The only rains (or seasons as they are called here) have been sudden showers, which do not rise and move before the wind as at the North, but are drawn together by attraction and exhaust themselves where they form. These clouds usually form immediately after noon, the rain descends in torrents on one side of a little creek or on one part of a plantation, while the adjoining land receives not a drop.

The Summer has been uncommonly warm as well as dry, but we cannot boast of the thermometer standing at 100 deg. as the good people of Gotham can, but it has varied from 90° to 98° since the first of June, and is still excessively hot. The negro is obliged to seek the shade in the middle of the day. Hundreds and thousands of acres of Corn are entirely ruined, some fields will produce, from 5 to 10, and perhaps in a few instances 20 bushels to the acre. It is hoped that Chambers Co. an excellent farming region, will have enough Corn and Wheat to supply the inhabitants. The pine lands stand the drouth much better than the oak and hickory lands; the former consist of a deep yellow sand, while the latter is a red clay mixed, in some instances with loam and gravel, and readily effected by dry weather.

The Cotton, if possible, has suffered more than the Corn. This requires a dry, warm season, and had not suffered much until the first of July, but since that time the prospects of the cotton-grower have been blasted. The growth is extremely small, and it is constantly shedding its bolls. Three hundred pounds of seed cotton is considered a good yield to the acre. Georgia and Alabama will not make more than a third of their last year's crop, and many think not more than a fourth. The people here are talking about getting 10 cents per pound for their cotton, but such hopes must fail. I need not tell you that gardens are entirely destroyed, and the cry is, what shall we do for *greens*—have you any *greens?* but one must himself be *green* to think of such things under this scorching sun.

As dry as the season has been, we have not been so regardless of the honor of our State as to elect that Terry to the Gubernatorial chair. Yours with respect, M.

HO! FOR CALIFORNIA.—A project for emigration to California has been conceived in Arkansas, some of the details of which we find in the Little Rock Gazette from the pen of Mr. D. G. W. Leavitt, of Napoleon. The purpose of the projectors is to raise a company of one thousand—"a number sufficient to give stability and permanency to the settlement, and also to give it a commanding influence on the sparely settled coast." It is proposed to send the families and freight of the emigrants by sea from this port. The young men, and others who prefer it, to take the overland route from Fort Smith to Santa Fé and thence to the Pacific, which it is proposed to strike near the Bay of San Fernando, in lat 34 deg. there to meet the families going by water. A site is then to be chosen, after a thorough exploration of the coast, for a permanent settlement. Mr. Leavitt enters at length into the attractions and advantages which California holds out to Western men, and predicts that ten years will see the Coast of California well settled, and that beautiful country "the great South-Western Republic of North America." N. O. Pic.

UNFORTUNATE FAMILY.—The St. Louis New Era states that a family of Germans by the name of Hauptman, consisting of five persons, an old lady, her two sons and two daughters-in-law, left Philadelphia on the 22d ult. for St. Louis by the way of the Ohio. On the way, her two sons and one daughter-in-law, were, one after another, drowned, leaving only the disconsolate mother and a daughter-in-law to relate their trials in St. Louis.

☞ We learn from the Little Rock Gazette that the commissioners to run the boundary line between Arkansas and Missouri have returned home, in fine health and spirits, after completing the line and signifying the performance of their duties, as required by the acts of their respective legislatures in '42, to the Governors of each State interested. The new line will vary but slightly from the old, say from 100 to 700 yards South, West of St. Francis river.

☞ The Steamboat Paul Jones, which arrived from Vicksburg last evening, brought down a negro fellow who had secreted himself on board. On being discovered by the officers and questioned, he said he belonged to Gov. McNutt, of Mississippi. [N. O. Pic, Sep. 6.

LABOR IN NEW-YORK:
ITS CIRCUMSTANCES, CONDITIONS AND REWARDS.

No. XV....The Milliners.

Girls who undertake to learn the Millinery business must work one year for nothing and board themselves. Sometimes in the very first class establishments they have to pay a bonus for the privilege of so working. They are kept steadily at work, with little opportunity for relaxation, from ten to twelve hours a day. After the expiration of the year they are turned out to find employment as they may. Millinery is a difficult and delicate art, requiring not only great expertness of fingers but considerable absolute genius to succeed in it. Consequently a great proportion of the girls who undertake the business find themselves not much better Milliners than when they began—as they have been kept regularly at sewing, and have not been taught any thing in regard to gracefulness of outline, harmony of colors, symmetry of form and general adaptation of dress to each peculiar style of face, so absolutely necessary to the production of a Milliner. Principals themselves seldom understand these things, and never think of teaching them: so that unless an apprentice has a strong natural genius for making bonnets, the chances are that she will never succeed in the business.

A great part of Millinery-work, however, requires merely labor, and this can be done by all who have served their year. They have nothing to do except to follow the order given them and to work without interruption from sunrise to 7 o'clock at night—These receive from $2 50 to $3 per week—but it must be quite a good hand who commands the latter price.

The business of making a bonnet has two branches. First it is *made*—then *trimmed.* The Trimmers get about the same prices as the Makers, but are in rather better request. A good Trimmer has not much need to be out of employment.

The greater part of those engaged in the Millinery business are Americans, although there is a fair proportion of English and French. The diversity of prices at which bonnets are sold in various parts of the City is very great, although the workwomen receive nearly the same every where. A hat which costs $20 or $25 in the fashionable establishments in Broadway can be bought in Division or Grand-street or in the Bowery for perhaps $5. The difference in quality or style is often not at all perceptible, and if the ownership of the articles had been reversed the critical customer would have paid her $25 for the Grand-street 'vulgar thing' and been proud of her bargain. The profits made on hats by the fashionable establishments must be very great. No hat can be more than a day's work for two persons—Trimmer and Maker; and yet many of them sell as high as $25, $30 and $50. An establishment which happens or manages to secure a run of fashionable custom must at this business accumulate very large profits;—but as this is a part of the business with which those who do the work have nothing to do, we must return from our digression.

The condition of the Milliner-girls in respect to mental and physical education, moral and social refinement, and all those graces which create an atmosphere of enchantment around the female sex, must, as a general remark, be deplorable. In the keen and bitter competition which pervades every branch of business the price of labor is kept down to the lowest possible point—although one would suppose that the large profits of Millinery bore so magnificent relations to the cost of labor as to avoid the necessity of such a result. But when or where was the price of labor *not* cut down as low and as fast as possible? What branch of employers, as a class, have ever come forward to arrest the downward tendency of wages?

The Milliner-girls mostly go to the business very young and with a most deficient common education. While engaged in their apprenticeship they probably board with some poor relative or friend and have to work over-hours to pay for their homely accommodations and meager fare. They have of course no time for study; and we have never heard that their advantages for moral improvement were conspicuous. At the end of their apprenticeship, if they get work, they make $2 50 or $3 per week. Their board and washing cost at least $2 of this and their clothes must also be provided for somehow. What ought we to look for under these circumstances?

It is generally known that there is a class of pretended 'Milliner shops' which are only used as a mask for the most disgraceful practices. The proverbial notoriety of these has served in the minds of some persons to cast a stain upon all women engaged in the Millinery business. But this is cruel and unjust. As a general thing the Milliners are as virtuous as any other class of females exposed to similar trials, hardships and temptations. Let those who look harshly upon the errors and vices of the hard-working classes surround themselves in imagination with poverty, want, weariness, lack of healthful food and sleep, and ponder well on what would be *their* reflections on beholding the gay and joyous life of vice as it appears outwardly, and they will learn to pity while they do not cease to condemn the unfortunate guilty.

☞ The Cherokee Advocate, of the 21st ult. says: "A gentleman residing in the Creek Nation, has informed us that the Pawnee Mahas have accepted the emblems of peace sent them by the Creeks, at the late General Council, and are anxious to form an alliance of friendship with them. This much desired object will probably be effected this Fall, at a Council which it is in contemplation to hold at the Great Salt Plains. No time has yet been fixed on for the meeting to take place."

☞ The following toast was given at a late dinner of the Hasty Pudding Club in Boston:

"Our corn-fed boys and corn-fed girls—the right material to form a corn-fed-eration."

Religious Intelligence.

THE JEWS.—Forty-five Jewish Missionaries (says the Boston Recorder) are now preaching among their countrymen the gospel of that Saviour, whom, as a nation they have, for eighteen hundred years, rejected.

BISHOP SOULE, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, says there has been a decrease of 45,435 members in the Northern section of the church the past year, and an increase of 9,703 in the Southern section, while the total increase for the preceding year was 155,000.—He ascribes it to the contentions that have agitated the church.

COURTESY AND LIBERALITY.—At the recent meeting of the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Buffalo, the ministers and members present, constituted the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in that city (Rev. A. T. Hopkins) together with his lady, Members for Life of the American Bible Society, and of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Sabbath following, on the suggestion of Mr. Hopkins, the people of his pastoral care, by a contribution of two hundred and forty dollars, constituted Rev. Bp. E. Janes, Rev. Noah Levings, D.D., Rev. Professor Seager, Rev. Horatio N. Leaven and lady and Rev. John Dennis and lady, (all of the Methodist Connection) Members for life of the American Home Missionary Society.

PUBLIC RELIGIOUS PATRONAGE.—The East India Company has lately contributed about $200,000 towards the erection and support of a Protestant Church in Calcutta.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS, LOYOLA.—This Church, where is the altar of the Father of the Jesuits, has been closed since the new anti-Roman Catholic movement in Germany.